

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 300907Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2295

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BD, IN, PK

SUBJ: BANGLADESH PROPOSAL TO OPEN TALKS ON WAR CRIMES TRIALS

REF: STATE 232891

1. BANGLADESH ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SEC AHMED'S PROPOSAL TO
UNSYG THAT INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH BEGIN DIS-
CUSSIONS ON DISPOSITION OF THE 195 PAK POWS EARMARKED
FOR WAR CRIMES TRIALS IS INTERESTING INsofar AS IT

INDICATES BDG WILLINGNESS TO TAKE EARLY INITIATIVE IN
THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE. IF BENGALLEES ARE UNWILLING TO BUDGE
IN REFUSING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP AT ANY LEVEL
UNLESS GOP RECOGNIZES BANGLADESH, HOWEVER, WE SEE VIRTUALLY NO
CHANCE IT WILL BE SALEABLE IN ISLAMABAD.

2. BHUTTO IS FIRMLY ON RECORD THAT GOP WILL NOT
RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH UNTIL BDG ABANDONS IT INTENTION TO
PUT ANY PAK POWS ON TRIAL FOR WAR CRIMES, AND HE HAS
MANDATE FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GIVING HIM FULL DISCRETION
IN THIS. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS PAKS HAVE INDICATED TO US
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THAT IMPASSE MIGHT BE RESOLVED THROUGH PRIVATE OFFICIAL-LEVEL

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BDG AND GOP TO DEVISE SOME SORT OF FORMULA FOR SIMULTANEOUS RENUNCIATION OF TRIALS BY BDG AND RECOGNITION BY GOP. WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT PAKS COULD BE PERSUADED GO BEYOND THIS AND AGREE RECOGNIZE BDG WHILE QUESTION OF WAR CRIMES TRIALS IS STILL OPEN.

3. PAKS DENY THAT THIS STAND IS IN ANY WAY INCOMPATIBLE WITH DELHI AGREEMENT. THEY CLAIM BANGLADESH DECLARATION THAT IT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SPECIFIED MEETINGS ONLY ON BASIS "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" WAS UNILATERAL STATEMENT BDG POLICY NOT BINDING ON OTHER PARTIES TO AGREEMENT. FURTHERMORE, THEY SAY, "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" NEED NOT BE DEFINED SOLELY IN TERMS OF RECOGNITION, AND THEY WOULD BE QUITE WILLING EXPLORE WAYS BY WHICH BDG COULD BE ASSURED OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OTHER THAN THROUGH FORMAL GOP RECOGNITION.

4. WOULD THUS APPEAR FROM HERE THAT PROSPECTS FOR AHMED'S PROPOSAL WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THERE IS ANY FURTHER GIVE IN BDG POSITION AS CONVEYED TO LAINGEN BY AHMED OR WHETHER BENGALLEES WILL CONTINUE INSIST ON FORMAL RECOGNITION BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISLAMABAD.
BYROADE

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